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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Mortality Report—Government Employees.

The Governor General of the Philippine Islands reports, July 15, 1912, as follows: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, total number of government employees, 9,395; deaths, 40; average years service, 5.62; average age at death, 32; annual death rate per thousand, 5.65.

Protection Against Plague.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, May 31, as follows:

The plague epidemic along the China coast is constantly increasing in severity, and is a grave menace to the Philippines. The constant spread and increase in the number of cases and deaths in the nearby ports of Hongkong and Kowloon are particularly dangerous to these islands. For the two weeks ended May 18, 1912, 346 plague cases, with 297 deaths, were reported from Hongkong.

The case which developed in a contact undergoing detention at the Mariveles Quarantine Station well illustrates the insidious nature of the present outbreak. The masked symptoms that occurred in the two cases of pneumonic plague which were detected at Manila in the steamers *Loongsang* and *Zafiro* have already been reported in my letter of April 11. In this last case the medical officer in command of the Mariveles Quarantine Station observed on April 30, 1912, that the patient had a temperature of 38.9° C., and pulse of 100, with a few symptoms of pneumonia. Up until May 6 he ran an irregular temperature which varied between 38.6° and 39.8°, and on May 5 he expectorated a small quantity of blood. Smears of this were made, but no suspicious organisms could be found. During all this time the patient stoutly maintained that he was not ill, that he felt perfectly well, and strenuously objected to being detained in the hospital. On May 6 his temperature and pulse suddenly dropped, and on the morning of that day a slight enlargement of the glands in the right axilla was noted. By 5 p. m. they had shown considerable increase in size; the right side of the neck was swollen and tender; and there was also tenderness in the right groin. The patient now stated that he felt very ill. Before midnight the palpable glands throughout the body were constantly increasing in size, and at 7 o'clock on the morning of May 7 the patient died. Laboratory examinations, subsequently made, fully established the diagnosis of pneumonic plague.

From the foregoing it is evident that the illness in the patient who died on the steamer *Loongsang* was not noted by the officers and laymen on board, and that the unusual strain caused by heaving on a rope, as was alleged, might well have hastened his death before the symptoms could be noticed by the officers of the vessel.

The rats killed by the biweekly fumigation of vessels plying between Hongkong and Amoy and Manila have been examined at Manila for plague. The results to date have all been negative.

There is reason to believe that plague has been present for some time in Amoy.

Cabin passengers are detained in quarantine at Mariveles, if they have lived in the Asiatic quarters of the China coast. Advices from the plague centers tend to show that, just now, the well-to-do classes,

owing to the large number of servants which they employ, are liable to convey the disease, and from a quarantine standpoint must be viewed as steerage.

PORTO RICO.

Plague Situation.

On July 15 there were no new cases of plague reported. July 16 a diagnosis of plague was made in a case which had been previously reported at San Juan as suspicious. July 17 and 18 there were no new cases of plague. July 19 a diagnosis of plague was confirmed in a case which had been previously reported as suspicious at Carolina. This makes the second case occurring at Carolina, in addition to the one reported at Loiza in which the infection in all probability had been contracted in Carolina. July 20, 1 case was reported at San Juan and 2 cases at Santurce. July 21 there were no new cases. This makes a total for all Porto Rico up to and including July 21 of 42 cases with 23 deaths, of which 28 cases occurred in the old city of San Juan; 9 in Santurce, a residential suburb of San Juan; 2 in Carolina, a town 13 miles from San Juan; 1 at Loiza, 3 miles from Carolina and 16 miles from San Juan; 1 at Arroyo, 40 miles from San Juan; and 1 at Dorado, 13 miles from San Juan.

Rats examined July 10 to 13, inclusive.

| Place. | Rats examined. | Rats found infected. | Rats found suspicious. |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| San Juan..... | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerta de Tierra ¹ | 15 | 2 | 0 |
| Santurce..... | 139 | 4 | 5 |
| All Porto Rico..... | 679 | 6 | 9 |

¹ Puerta de Tierra is a section of San Juan.

Carolina.

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel reports, July 16:

The last case of plague reported in Carolina occurred in the municipal jail, which is located in the same buildings wherein the Loiza case contracted his infection. The structure of the building is of the character known as adobe in some countries, but called "mamposteria" in Porto Rico. On the first inspection of Carolina, it was discovered that this building, and especially the thick walls of mamposteria, was riddled with rat holes and rat runs. Its total demolition was advised, and agreed upon by the director of sanitation. However, the matter was deferred until to-day. This matter has again been taken up with the director of sanitation, and it is expected that the building will be destroyed without further delay.

Rat proofing of houses and destruction of rat harbors in Carolina has just about been completed. It is believed that when the above-mentioned building has been torn down rat infection will have been practically eradicated from Carolina.

To date there have been examined from Carolina 287 rats, of which 10 were found infected.